At the IFLA Conference 2011 in San Juan there was an increase of people joining us at our two Standing Committee meetings compared to previous years. This is encouraging. Our Standing Committee can hold 16 people and we need more members. Our Session in San Juan, Student Access to New and Emerging Technologies, went well.

Most of the committee work is of course done by the officers, usually by mail and sometimes via Skype. This February, however, the Secretary, Barbara Schultz-Jones, the Web Officer, Tricia Adams, and I were able to work together for a few days in Milan at The European Meeting on Media and Information Literacy (EMMILE) conference. Our Section was on the list of co-partners to EMMILE and on behalf of IFLA’s President Ingrid Parent, I read her letter of greetings to the participants. As members of IASL, Dianne Oberg, Lourence Das and Luisa Marquardt also attended the conference and we could meet and work together on our future plans for collaboration. Oberg and Das are former members of our Standing Committee and Marquardt is a present member.

Together with IASL we have applied for and have been granted funding from IFLA for the first of a 2 year-project on School Library Advocacy worldwide. The information that the project intends to provide, will be published on the IFLA webpage under the Building Strong Library Associations program. The project is only in its starting phase, it is impossible to say when it will be launched at this moment. Dianne Oberg is chairing the joint project committee. A workshop is planned for the IASL conference in Qatar in November.

Collaboration between our Section and Section for Public Libraries has resulted in a 3 hours joint session on collaboration between the two library types at this year’s conference, Friends or Foes, public and school libraries a force for change for creating smart communities.

Preliminary discussions have been started between our Section and The Section for Information Literacy about a joint session in Singapore 2013.

As the Joint Agreement on collaboration between IFLA and IASL ends in 2012, it needs to be renewed. Hopefully both organizations will continue working together in the years to come. Together we can do more!

20 July 2012

Randi Lundvall, Chair